

Security Information

9 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Office of Intelligence Co-ordination

SUBJECT : Proposed Inter-Departmental Committee on Foreign Language Reference Materials

REFERENCES : A. Memorandum dated 5 Aug from AD/IC to ID/P, AD/RR, AD/SI, AD/O, AD/OD, D/TR, and AD/TS, subject: Proposed Charter of Inter-Departmental Committee on Foreign Language Reference Materials.

B. Memorandum dated 12 Aug from AD/IC to AD/O and D/TR, subject: Proposed Inter-Departmental Committee on Foreign Language Reference Materials.

C. Memorandum dated 13 Aug from Acting Chief, FID, to AD/IC, subject: Identification and Procurement of Reference Material for Exploitation in FDD.

1. Reference C clearly indicates that FDD's requirements are adequately met by existing foreign language reference materials, and that, therefore, FDD has no requirements for the development and production of new foreign language reference materials.

2. The reason for FDD's lack of requirements for the development of new materials appears to this Office to be that the extraordinary range of language skills represented on the FDD staff allows it to make use of bi-lingual reference materials in two foreign languages. Existing materials, however, are inadequate for various intelligence purposes where personnel concerned do not have FDD expertise, either in language competence or in number of languages. Such expertise may not be presumed in most cases, particularly overseas. The existing materials are also inadequate for the purpose of foreign language training. It is in order to remedy these two types of inadequacies that the subject committee has been proposed.

3. In view of the foregoing, the statement of mission of the proposed committee should be revised to specify with absolute clarity that the prime interest of the committee is the development of new foreign language reference materials required to meet governmental needs in various intelligence activities and in foreign language training. The proposed committee is not concerned with existing materials except insofar as the evaluation of such materials is needed to determine governmental requirements for new materials.

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Security Information

4. The effective operation of the proposed committee requires the support of a linguistic research staff as a permanent working group of the committee. The functions of this staff would be to analyze the governmental requirements developed by the committee, to evaluate existing materials, and to make recommendations to the committee on the suitability of such materials to meet specified requirements.

5. Reference B indicates that general agreement has been reached by the Offices of the Agency with respect to the establishment of the committee and the responsibility within the Agency for supporting the committee.

6. With respect to Paragraph 2 of Reference B, the Office of Training, in May 1952, proposed a project for the preparation of Chinese language training material. In order to determine the validity of the project, FDD agreed to undertake the evaluation of available Chinese language reference materials. OCD is collecting these materials. O/TR's decision to proceed with this project will be based on FDD's recommendations. In this case, the functions of the committee are being performed at the Agency rather than the governmental level. O/TR is unable to estimate the number of personnel necessary for FDD to perform the linguistic research function at the governmental level, but it is doubted that it could be undertaken with their present on-duty strength. Similar requirements may arise within any Office of the Agency. However, other governmental agencies may also have similar requirements and may be expending equivalent sums of money for the same objectives, so that the existence of the committee would undoubtedly result in substantial savings to the government.

7. It is the view of this Office that FDD has the capability of performing the analytical and evaluative functions of the linguistic research staff.

8. It is therefore recommended:

- a. that FDD be given the responsibility of providing analytical and evaluative support to the proposed committee with assistance from O/TR, and that it increase its T/O as required for this purpose;
- b. that the attached re-draft of the charter for the proposed committee be approved and processed to the IAC Agencies.

MATTHEW BAIRD
Director of Training

Attachment

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